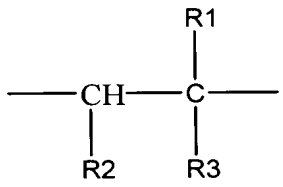
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original; Withdrawn) A resin composition for optical film exhibiting negative birefringence, which comprises:

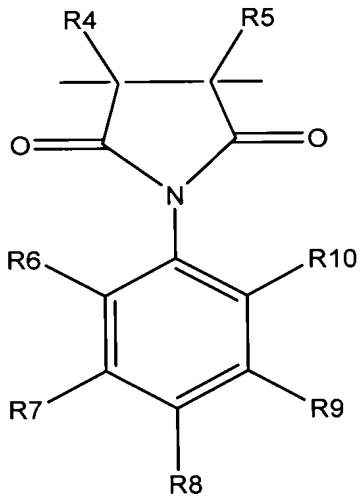
(a) 30-95% by weight of a copolymer comprising an α-olefin residual group unit represented by the following formula (i):



(i)

wherein R1, R2 and R3 each independently represent hydrogen or an alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms, and

an N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residual group unit represented by the following formula (ii):



(ii)

wherein R4 and R5 each independently represent hydrogen, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms; and R6, R7, R8, R9 and R10 each independently represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5×10^3 to 5×10^6; and

(b) 70-5% by weight of at least one acrylonitrile-styrene based copolymer selected from an acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer and an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer, a weight ratio of an acrylonitrile residual group unit to a styrene residual group unit being 20/80 to 35/65, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5×10^3 to 5×10^6.

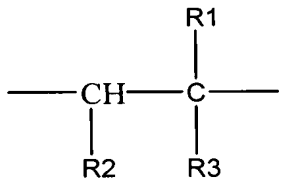
2. (Original; Withdrawn) The resin composition for optical film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the copolymer (a) is at least one selected from the group consisting of an N-phenylmaleimide-isobutene copolymer and an N-(2-methylphenyl)maleimide- isobutene copolymer.

3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original; Withdrawn) A process of producing an optical film exhibiting negative birefringence, which comprises:

forming a resin composition for optical film exhibiting negative birefringence, which comprises:

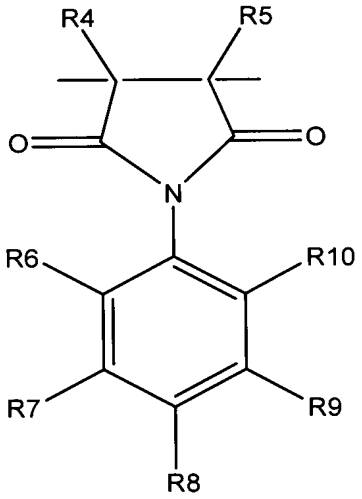
(a) 30-95% by weight of a copolymer comprising an α-olefin residual group unit represented by the following formula (i):



(i)

wherein R1, R2 and R3 each independently represent hydrogen or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and

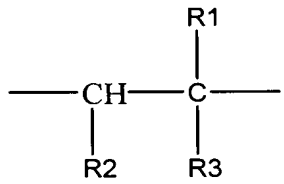
an N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residual group unit represented by the following formula (ii):



(ii)

wherein R4 and R5 each independently represent hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms; and R6, R7, R8, R9 and R10 each independently represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5 × 103 to 5 × 106; and

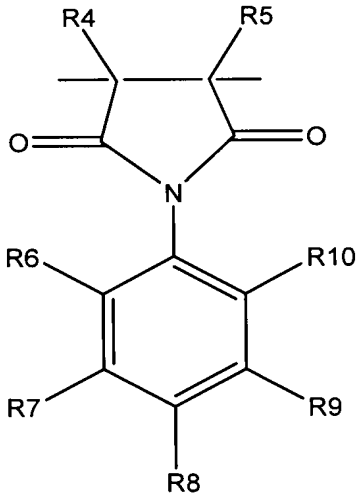
(a) 30-95% by weight of a copolymer comprising an α-olefin residual group unit represented by the following formula (i):



(i)

wherein R1, R2 and R3 each independently represent hydrogen or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and

an N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residual group unit represented by the following formula (ii):



(ii)

wherein R4 and R5 each independently represent hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms; and R6, R7, R8, R9 and R10 each independently represent hydrogen, a halogen atom, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5 × 103 to 5 × 106; and

(b) 70-5% by weight of at least one acrylonitrile-styrene based copolymer selected from an acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer and an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer, a weight ratio of an acrylonitrile residual group unit to a styrene residual group unit being 20/80 to 35/65, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5 × 103 to 5 × 106

into a film; and

stretching and orienting the film at a temperature in the range of from [(glass transition temperature of the resin composition) – 20°C] to [(glass transition temperature of the resin composition) + 20°C].

8. (Original; Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the stretching and orientation are uniaxial stretching and orientation.

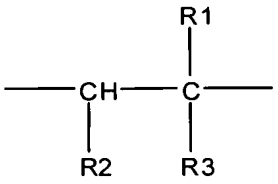
9. (Original; Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the stretching and orientation are biaxial stretching and orientation.

10-16. (Canceled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) An optical film exhibiting negative birefringence, which comprises:

a resin composition, which comprises:

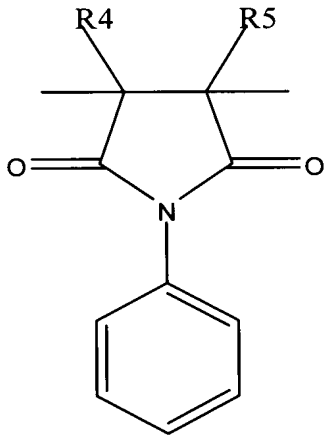
(a) 30-95% by weight of a copolymer comprising an a-olefin residual group unit represented by the following formula (i):



(i)

wherein R1, R2 and R3 each independently represent hydrogen or an alkyl group having 1-6 carbon atoms, and

an N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residual group unit represented by the following formula (ii):



(ii)

wherein R4 and R5 each independently represent hydrogen, or a linear or branched alkyl group having 1-8 carbon atoms; and

having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5×10^3 to 5×10^6; and

(b) 70-5% by weight of at least one acrylonitrile-styrene based copolymer selected from an acrylonitrile-styrene copolymer and an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer, a weight ratio of an acrylonitrile residual group unit to a styrene residual group unit being

20/80 to 35/65, and having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of 5×10^3 to 5×10^6,

the optical film being obtained by biaxially stretching the resin composition,

the optical film having a relationship of three-dimensional refractive indexes of $nz>ny\geq nx$ or $nz>nx\geq ny$ in the case where the stretching direction is define as an x-axis and a y-axis within a film plane, a direction outside the film plane and perpendicular to the x-axis and y-axis is defined as a z-axis, a refractive index in the x axis direction is defined as nx, a refractive index in the y-axis direction is defined as ny, and a refractive index in the z-axis direction is defined as nz.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The optical film as claimed in claim 17, wherein the copolymer (a) is an N-phenylmaleimide-isobutene copolymer.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The optical film as claimed in claim 17, which is a retardation film.